

# Mid-Atlantic Council Report to Council Coordination Committee

Richard B. Robins, Jr., Chairman

February 26, 2009

\*\*\* Annual Catch Limits

\*\*\* Ending Overfishing

\*\*\* Rebuilding Status

# Approach to Meeting MSA Requirement for ACL / AM [MSA Section 303(a)(15)]

- Formed an ACL / AM Committee
- Empanelled a Fishery Management Action Team (FMAT)
- Coordinating with Council's SSC

# Fisheries Being Addressed

Plan Species*	Commercial Component	Recreational Component	ASMFC (State) Cooperative Management
Summer flounder	yes	yes	yes
Scup	yes	yes	yes
Black sea bass	yes	yes	yes
Tilefish	yes	Not actively managed	no
Surfclams	yes	no	no
Ocean quahogs	yes	no	no
Atlantic mackerel	yes	Allocation, but no active measures	no
Butterfish	yes	no	no
Bluefish	yes	yes	yes
Dogfish	yes	Not actively managed	yes

\* NEFMC has lead on Monkfish

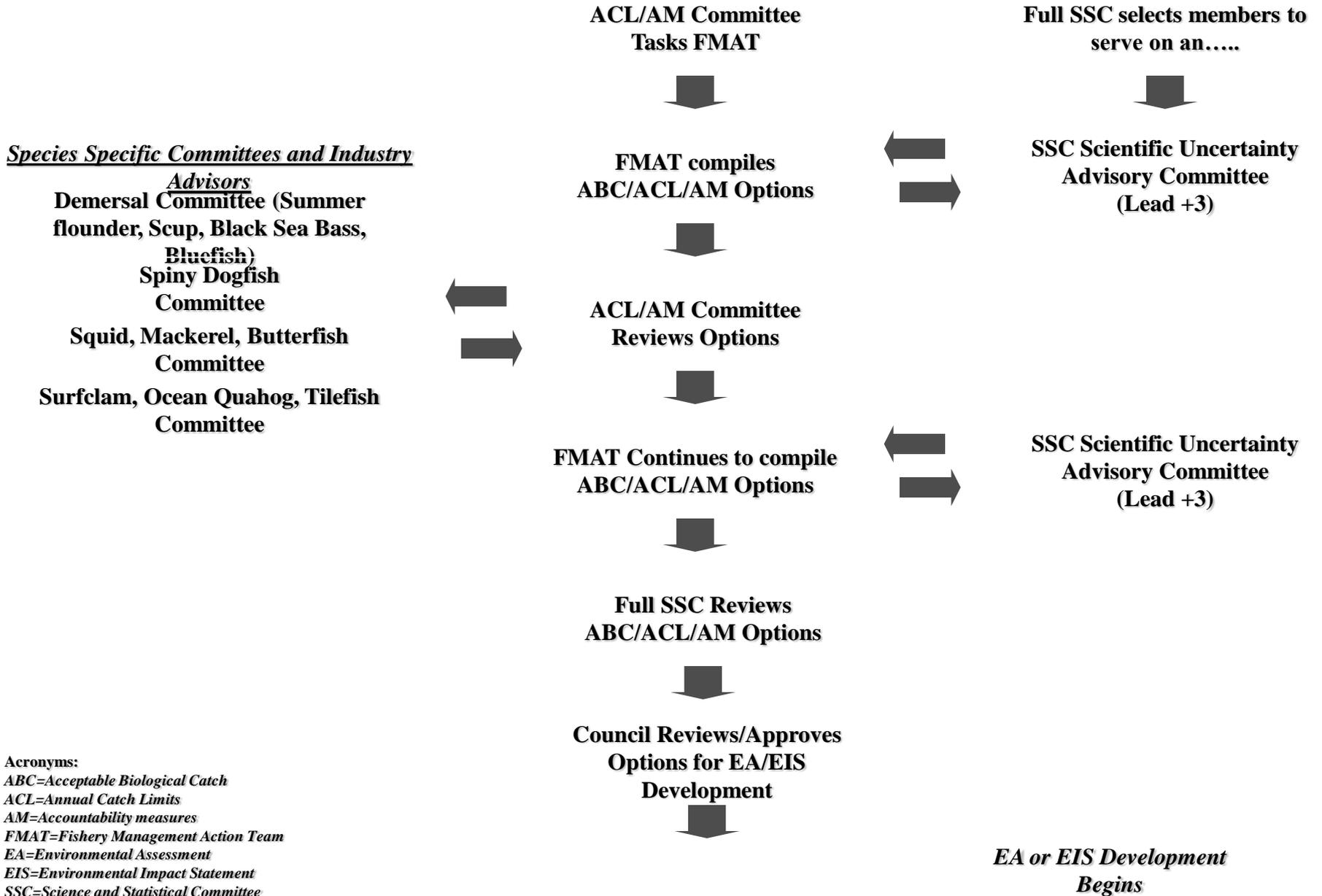
# National Environmental Policy Act Considerations

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>NEPA Analysis</b>	<b>Requirements</b>
<b>CE</b>	Categorical Exclusion from NEPA	No NEPA requirements; only Magnuson and other applicable laws
<b>EA</b>	Environmental Assessment	NEPA applies, no scoping required, public hearings required
<b>EIS</b>	Environmental Impact Statement	NEPA applies, scoping required, public hearings required

# Timeline for Development, Review and Implementation

2011 Track	
Action	Timeline, based on current Council meeting schedule
First ACL/AM Committee Meeting	December 9, 2008
Develop Description of the Alternatives (may include additional meetings of the Committee and/or FMAT as needed) and scope	January - July 2009 (approx. 6 months)
MAFMC Meeting (Council Review Alternatives); if applicable in conjunction with ASMFC Board for cooperatively managed species	August 2009
Document Development: CE, EA, or EIS (may include additional meetings of the Committee and/or FMAT as needed)	September 2009 - March 2010 (approx. 6 months)
MAFMC Meeting (Adopt public hearing draft)	April 2010
ASMFC Meeting if applicable for joint species (Adopt public hearing draft)	April 2010
Public Hearings and Summarization of Comments (need at least 21 days of FR notice and 30 days comment period with hearings)	May-July 2010
MAFMC Meeting (Approve/adopt amendment)	August 2010
ASMFC Meeting if applicable for joint species (Approve/adopt amendment)	August 2010
Final Rule Effective	January 1, 2011

# Coordination of the ACL/AM Committee, Species Committee's, FMAT, and SSC in early option development for the NS 1 Omnibus



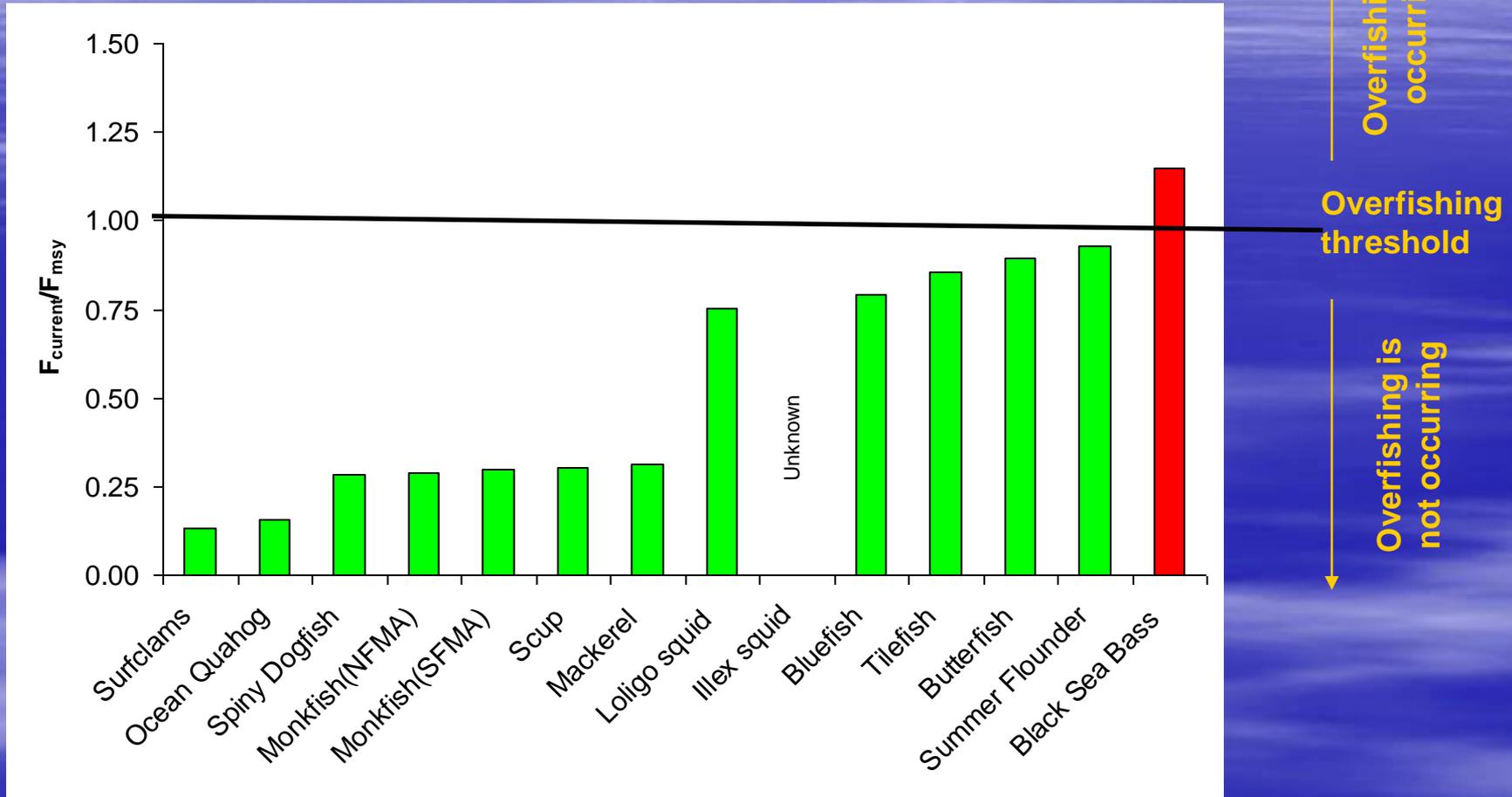
# TWIN GOALS OF FISHERY MANAGEMENT

- 1.) **“Prevent overfishing while achieving ...optimum yield”** – NS 1 [MSA Section 301 (a) (1)]
  - Optimum yield means the “amount of fish based on maximum sustainable yield from the fishery” [MSA Section 3 (33)]
  - Maximum sustainable yield is “the largest average catch or yield that can continuously be taken from a stock under existing environmental conditions” [NOAA Fisheries Glossary, June 2006]

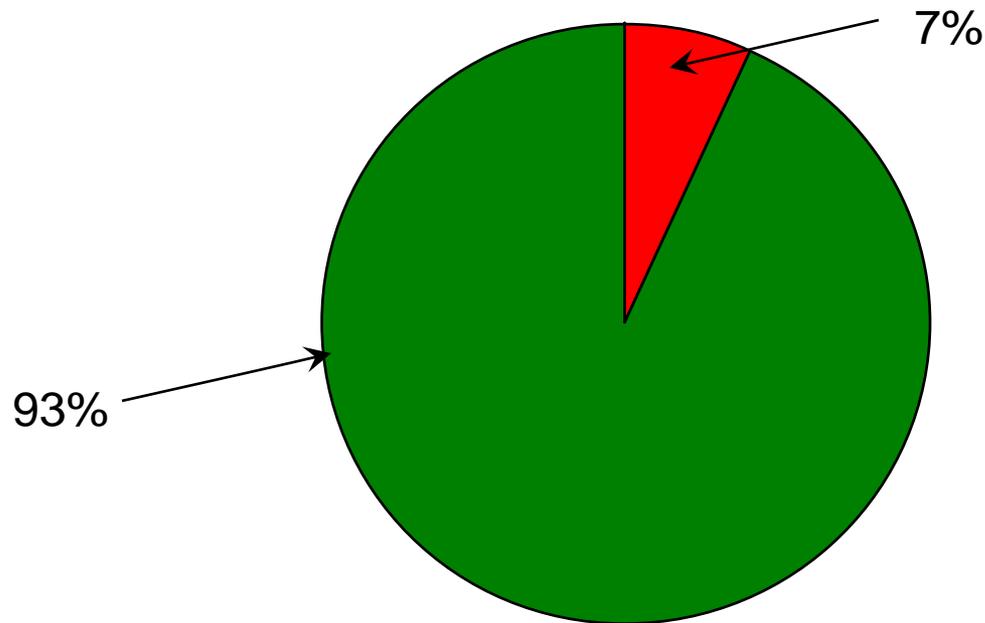
## Fishing Mortality Rates and Thresholds for MAFMC Managed Species

<b>Species</b>	<b>F<sub>current</sub></b>	<b>F<sub>msy</sub></b>	<b>F/F<sub>msy</sub></b>
Surfclams	0.020	0.150	0.133
Ocean Quahog	0.008	0.052	0.155
Spiny Dogfish	0.110	0.390	0.282
Monkfish(NFMA)	0.090	0.310	0.290
Monkfish(SFMA)	0.120	0.400	0.300
Scup	0.054	0.177	0.305
Mackerel	0.050	0.160	0.313
<i>Loligo</i> squid	0.320	0.426	0.752
<i>Illex</i> squid			unk
Bluefish	0.150	0.190	0.789
Tilefish	0.180	0.210	0.857
Butterfish	0.340	0.380	0.895
Summer Flounder	0.288	0.310	0.929
Black Sea Bass	0.482	0.419	1.150

# Fishing mortality ratios for MAFMC managed stocks



## Stock Status of the 13 MAFMC Managed Species Relative to Fishing Mortality



- Overfishing (Black Sea Bass)
- No Overfishing (All other species)

# TWIN GOALS OF FISHERY MANAGEMENT

- 2.) **Rebuild overfished stocks and those stocks approaching an overfished state [MSA Section 304 (e)]**
  - Rebuild means “implementing management measures that increase a fish stock to its target size” (Bmsy) [NOAA Fisheries Glossary, June 2006]

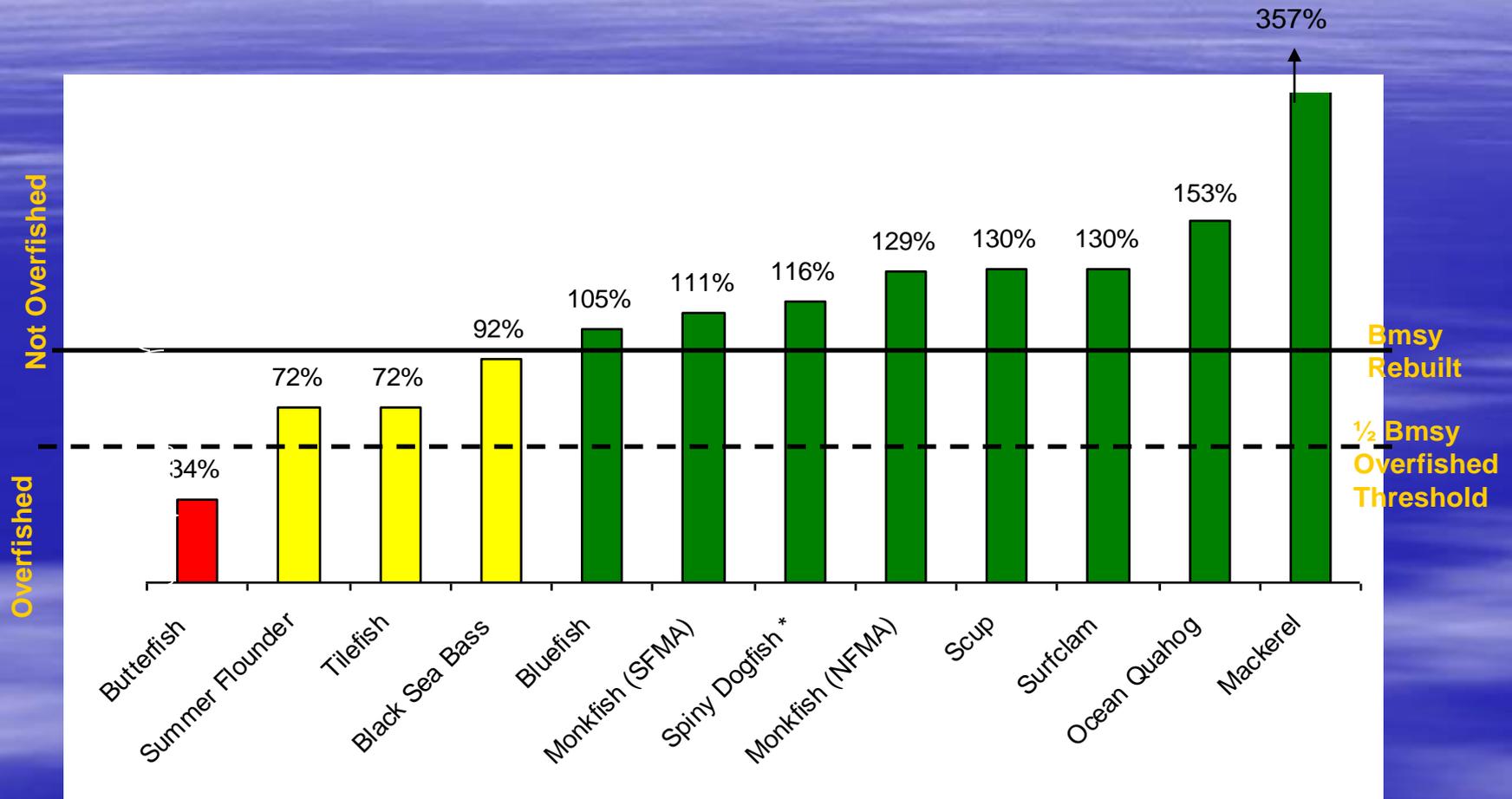
# Stock Target Levels and Current Abundance of MAFMC Managed Species

Species	$B_{MSY}$ (Metric tons)	$B_{ACTUAL}$ (Metric tons)	$B_A/B_{MSY}$
Butterfish	22,789	7,800	0.342
Tilefish	9,385	6,713	0.715
Summer Flounder	60,056	43,363	0.722
Black Sea Bass	12,519	11,476	0.917
Bluefish	147,051	153,843	1.046
Monkfish (SFMA)	122,500	135,500	1.106
Spiny Dogfish	200,000	231,962	1.160
Monkfish (NFMA)	92,200	118,700	1.287
Scup	92,034	119,340	1.297
Surfclams	898,113	1,170,269	1.303
Ocean Quahog	1,986,735	3,039,070	1.530
Mackerel	644,000	2,300,000	3.571
<i>Illex</i> Squid			
<i>Loligo</i> Squid			

# Stock Target Levels and Current Abundance of MAFMC Managed Species

Species	$B_{MSY}$ (Millions of pounds)	$B_{ACTUAL}$ (Millions of pounds)	$B_A/B_{MSY}$
Butterfish	50.2	17.2	0.342
Tilefish	20.7	14.8	0.715
Summer Flounder	132.4	95.6	0.722
Black Sea Bass	27.6	25.3	0.917
Bluefish	324.2	339.2	1.046
Monkfish (SFMA)	270.1	298.7	1.106
Spiny Dogfish	440.9	511.4	1.160
Monkfish (NFMA)	203.3	261.7	1.287
Scup	202.9	263.1	1.297
Surfclams	1,980.0	2,580.0	1.303
Ocean Quahog	4,380.0	6,700.0	1.530
Mackerel	1,419.8	5,070.6	3.571
Illex Squid			
Loligo Squid			

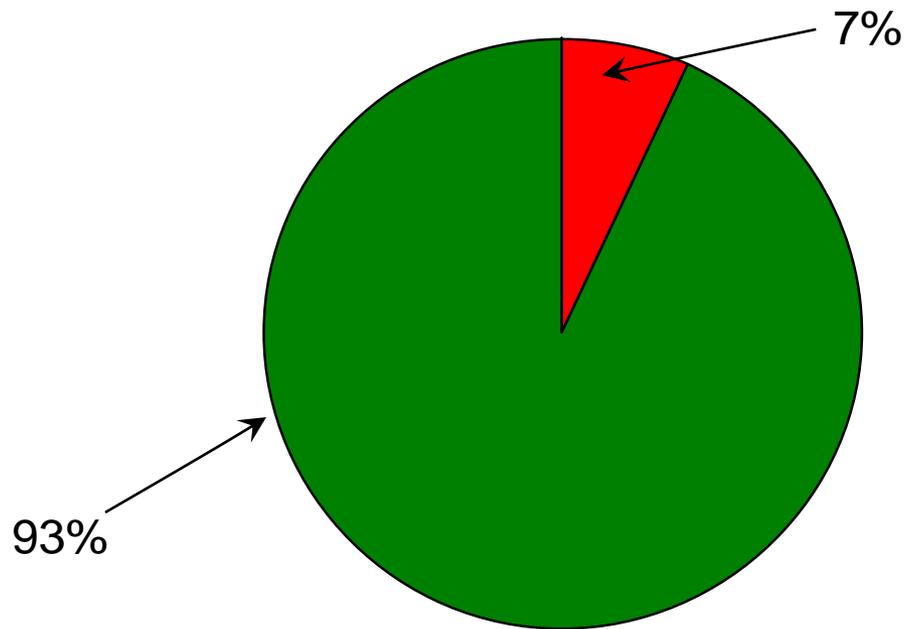
# Stock Size Relative to Biological Reference Points



\* No approved target for spiny dogfish.

NOTE: Illex and Loligo squids are short-lived species and not included in above.

## Stock Status of the 13 MAFMC Managed Species Relative to Biomass



■ Overfished (Butterfish) ■ Not Overfished (All other species)